



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mr. B.C. Hornady  
Serial No.: 09/833,847  
Filed: 04/12/01  
Art Unit: 3612  
Examiner: Hilary L. Gutman  
Title: Apparatus for Covering Payloads  
Responsive To: Office Action mailed January 9, 2003

#12/B (at)  
Hilary L. Gutman  
5/1/03

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GROUP 3600

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.13 and 1.116**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madame:

Please accept this response to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2003.

***Drawings (Paragraph 1 of Office Action)***

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the applicant is preparing the revised drawings, showing the plurality of spring loaded locking mechanisms (also sometimes referred to as snap shackles) and the safety cable which are referenced in the Specification. Pursuant to the undersigned's telephone conference with Examiner on April 21, 2003, Applicant understands these may be provided subsequently to this response.

***Claim Rejections (Paragraphs 2-3, & 8 of Office Action)***

In paragraphs 2-3 and 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner responds to Applicant's previous arguments concerning claims 1-3 and 15-16. Specifically, in its responses dated October 18, 2002 and December 3, 2002, Applicant traversed Examiner's contention that such claims were anticipated by JP '573. Applicant attempted to demonstrate in its previous responses that JP '573 does not

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER  
HUB 5/2/03